

In the claims:

1. (Currently amended) A mail system configured to process postage evidence on a mail piece, the mail system comprising:

a handling system configured to receive the mail piece, scan the postage evidence for visible marks and non-visible marks to read visible mark information indicated by the visible marks and non-visible mark information indicated by the non-visible marks, and transfer the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information; and

a processing system coupled to the handling system and configured to process the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information to generate postage information for the mail piece

wherein the handling system is further configured to scan the non-visible marks using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light, and to process information in the non-visible marks to validate information in the visible marks, and

wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is further configured to process the non-visible mark information and use the non-visible mark information in combination with the information in the visible mark information to validate the postage evidence.

5. (Original) The mail system of claim 4 wherein the non-visible mark information comprises a key to validate the information in the visible mark information.

6. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the processing system is further configured to process the non-visible mark information and the visible mark information using a checksum algorithm.

7. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise a bar code.

8. (Original) The mail system of claim 7 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

9. (Original) The mail system of claim 1 wherein the postage information includes a postage amount.

10. (Original) The mail system of claim 9 wherein the postage information includes a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

11. (Currently amended) A method for processing postage evidence on a mail piece, the method comprising:

receiving the mail piece;

scanning the postage evidence for visible marks and non-visible marks to read visible mark information indicated by the visible marks and non-visible mark information indicated by the non-visible marks, wherein the non-visible marks are scanned using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light, and wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks; and

processing the visible mark information and the non-visible mark information to generate postage information for the mail piece.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising processing the non-visible mark information to validate the postage evidence.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the non-visible mark information comprises a key to the visible mark information.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising processing the non-visible mark information and the visible mark information using a checksum algorithm.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise a bar code.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the postage information includes a postage amount.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the postage information includes a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

21. (Currently Amended) A postage system configured to print postage evidence on a mail piece, the postage system comprising:

a processing system configured to process postage information to generate a print signal and transfer the print signal; and

a printing system configured to receive the print signal, print visible marks on the mail piece responsive to the print signal, and print non-visible marks on the mail piece responsive to the print signal, wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece;

wherein the processing system is configured to generate the print signal using a checksum algorithm to instruct the printing system to print the non-visible marks and the visible marks;

and wherein the printing system is configured to print the non-visible marks to be scannable using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light;

and wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

22. (Original) The postage system of claim 21 wherein the non-visible marks indicate a validity of the postage evidence.

23. (Original) The postage system of claim 22 wherein information represented by the non-visible marks comprises a key to information represented by the visible marks.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The postage system of claim 21 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise a bar code.

26. (Original) The postage system of claim 25 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

27. (Original) The postage system of claim 21 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate a postage amount.

28. (Original) The postage system of claim 27 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a postage system for printing postage evidence on a mail piece, the method comprising:

printing visible marks on the mail piece; and

printing non-visible marks on the mail piece, wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece, and wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks are printed based on a checksum algorithm, and wherein the the non-visible marks are printed to be scannable using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light and wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the non-visible marks indicate a validity of the postage evidence.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30 wherein information represented by the non-visible marks comprises a key to information represented by the visible marks.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise a bar code.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

35. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate a postage amount.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the visible marks and the non-visible marks indicate a date, an origination address, a destination address, and security information.

37. (Currently Amended) A postage system configured to print postage evidence on a mail piece, the postage system comprising:

a processing system configured to process postage information to generate a print signal and transfer the print signal; and

a printing system configured to receive the print signal, print a visible bar code on the mail piece responsive to the print signal, and print a non-visible bar code on the mail piece within white space on the visible bar code responsive to the print signal, wherein the visible bar code and the non-visible bar code indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece;

wherein the processing system is configured to generate the print signal using a checksum algorithm to instruct the printing system to print the non-visible bar code and the visible bar code,

and wherein the printing system is configured to print the non-visible bar code so that there is on the non-visible bar code non-visible marks scannable using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light and wherein the non-visible marks are also

detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

38. (Original) The postage system of claim 37 wherein the non-visible bar code indicates a validity of the postage evidence.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Original) The postage system of claim 37 wherein the visible bar code and the non-visible bar code comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).

41. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a postage system for printing postage evidence on a mail piece, the method comprising:

printing a visible bar code on the mail piece; and

printing a non-visible bar code on the mail piece within white space on the visible bar code, wherein the visible bar code and the non-visible bar code indicate the postage evidence for the mail piece, and wherein the non-visible bar code and the visible bar code are printed based on a checksum algorithm, and wherein, the non-visible bar code is printed so that there are on the non-visible bar code non-visible marks scannable using an Ultra Violet (UV) or an Infrared (IR) light and wherein the non-visible marks are also detectable by human eye using a UV light for human confirmation of the non-visible marks.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the non-visible bar code indicates a validity of the postage evidence.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the visible bar code and the non-visible bar code comprise Information Based Indicia (IBI).